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ABSTRACT

Addressed to advocates and decision makers, this agenda identifies state services in Michigan that will be most vital to the state's children and families in fiscal year 1991. Initial contents provide general policy recommendations of the Michigan Coalition for Children and Families. Policy recommendations for the programs of the departments of education, management and budget, mental health, public health, and social services are offered. It is emphasized that the listing is neither comprehensive nor prioritized. All programs listed in the agenda are considered crucial to the elimination of pain, suffering, and death and the promotion of the health and well-being of Michigan's most vulnerable citizens. (RH)

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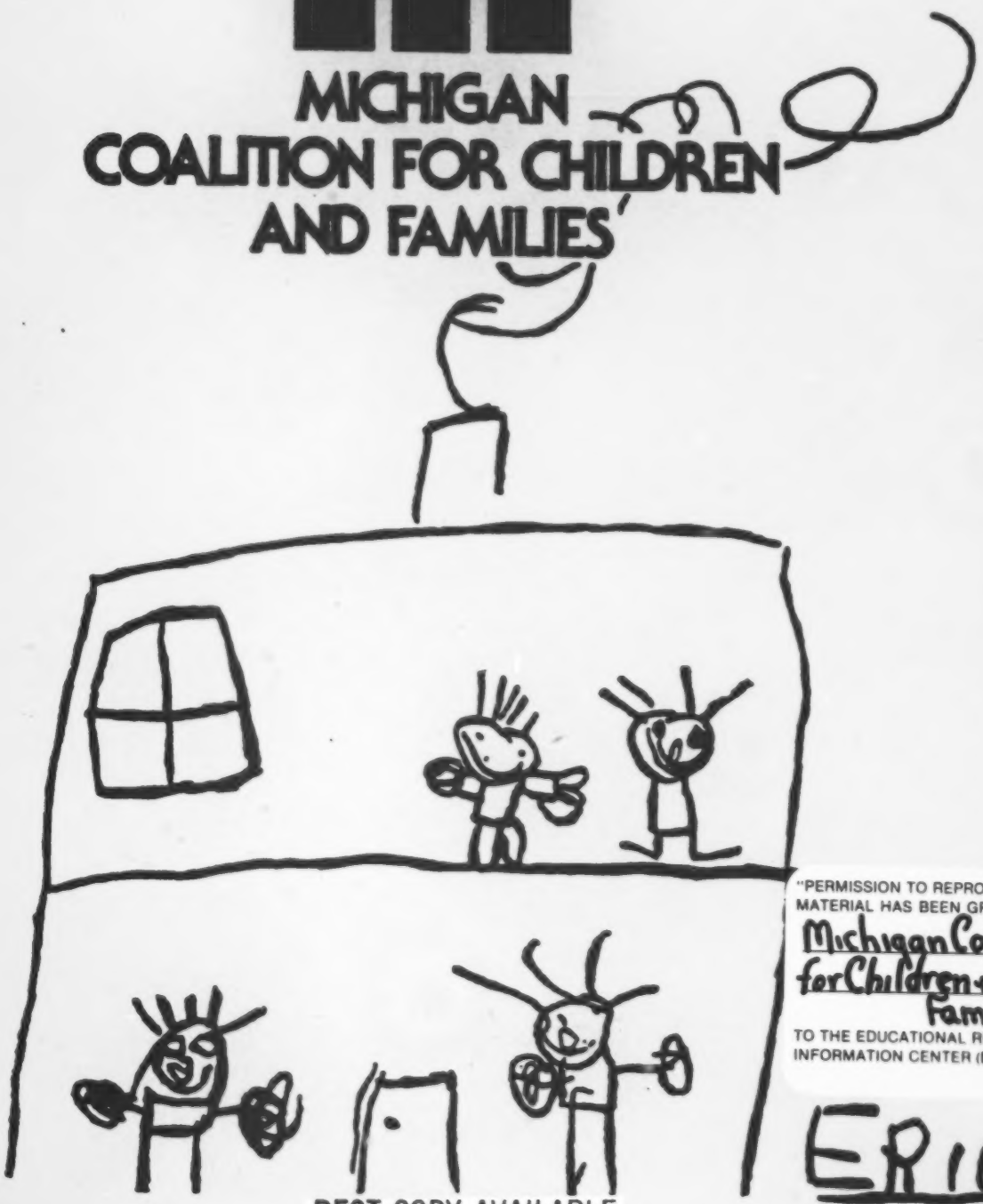

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FY 1991 CHILDREN'S AGENDA

ENDORSING ORGANIZATIONS

Child Care Coordinating & Referral Service/Washtenaw 4C
Child Care Resource & Referral/Kalamazoo Regional 4C
Children's Charter of the Courts of Michigan
Children's Hospital of Michigan
Detroit/Wayne County 4C
Flint/Genesee 4C
Gratiot County 4C/Child Advocacy Association
Kent Regional 4C
Macomb 4C
Michigan Child Care Task Force
Michigan 4C Association
Michigan Association of Children's Alliances
Michigan Association for Local Public Health
Michigan Council for Family Relations
Michigan Chapter - National Association Pediatric Nurse Associates & Practitioners
Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Michigan Community Action Agency Association
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency
Michigan Head Start Association
Michigan Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition
Michigan Home Economics Educators
Michigan League for Human Services
Michigan League of Women Voters
Michigan Network of Runaway and Homeless Youth Services
Michigan Primary Care Association
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc.
Michigan Section, American College Obstetricians & Gynecologists
National Association of Social Workers -- Michigan Chapter
Northwest Michigan 4C Council
Oakland County 4C
Office for Young Children, Regional 4C
Ottawa Regional 4C
Perinatal Association of Michigan
Saginaw Valley Regional 4C
Southwestern Michigan Perinatal Association
Student Advocacy Center, University of Michigan
Student Parent Center
Upper Peninsula 4C
Urban Families Program, Wayne State University

NOTE TO POLICY MAKERS

The Children's Agenda is developed by the Michigan Coalition for Children and Families to advocate on behalf of the children of Michigan. However, it is not a comprehensive or prioritized listing of all the needs of Michigan's children.

The Coalition encourage's each of you to use the Agenda as one of the tools available to you, as you go about your decisionmaking processes.

We applaud your hard work and commitment as you work for Michigan's children -- our future.

1991 CHILDREN'S AGENDA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The order in which the issues are presented in the Children's Agenda does not in any way reflect a priority among departments providing services or among those services.

Purpose of the Children's Agenda 1

Philosophy and Approach 1

Policy Recommendations 2

Department of Education 4

Department of Management and Budget 6

Department of Mental Health 7

Department of Public Health 8

Department of Social Services 13

FY 1991

MICHIGAN COALITION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES'

CHILDREN'S AGENDA

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Michigan Coalition for Children and Families' (MCCF) CHILDREN'S AGENDA is to identify and protect state services that are most vital to Michigan's children and families. Programs listed in the CHILDREN'S AGENDA are crucial to the elimination of pain, suffering and death and to promoting the health and well-being of our state's most vulnerable citizens.

PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH

The CHILDREN'S AGENDA is a consensus document on those issues MCCF considers to be essential to the health and well-being of children and families in Michigan. Each recommendation represents crucial needs. There is no implied or explicit prioritization among those issues which the AGENDA has identified. Additionally, the AGENDA is clearly limited in its ability to address all the needs of children and families. Absence of an issue in the AGENDA reflects, not "lesser" importance, but rather the inability of the Coalition to fully commit its resources to that issue at this time.

Children are a bi-partisan concern. Children and their needs must be exempt from partisan politics and election strategy. Children should receive the full attention and highest priority of responsible local, county, state, and federal governments at all times.

FY 1991

MICHIGAN COALITION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES'

CHILDREN'S AGENDA

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

PREVENTIVE SERVICES

It is essential that Michigan develop a budgeting policy which recognizes the "capital gains" accrued through investment in PREVENTIVE SERVICES for children and families.

Discussion: Just as dollars to meet the human services needs of all our citizens are scarce, so the human resources of our state are diminishing as the number of children and young adults decline. By 1995, there will be 5 million fewer 18 to 24 year olds than there were in 1985. At the same time, the number of older Americans is increasing, with those aged 85 to 100 years old forming the fastest growing group in America today. To provide medical and other services to this burgeoning cohort of the old-old, Michigan must invest wisely in its children today.

Investing in PREVENTIVE SERVICES for children and families today not only saves money in the near future (one dollar spent on prevention today will save us 6 dollars of "crisis" spending down the road), but also ensures that every child will grow up to become a productive, tax paying citizen. As our population ages, we cannot afford to squander the most precious resource available to protect the tomorrows of all of us -- our children.

NO TAX ROLLBACK

Taxes should not be rolled back until the human services needs of our citizens are adequately met.

Discussion: For FY 1990, it is anticipated there will be a significant "negative supplemental" budget action, forcing public and private human service agencies to reduce their service/work plans. At the same time these agencies are cutting back, there are growing waiting lists for many human services including substance abuse treatment, an increasing number of women and children living in poverty while Michigan ADC rates are less than 55% of the federal poverty level.

EXPLORE ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCES

Michigan's policy makers should explore alternate revenue sources.

Discussion: Michigan has lost over $7.6 billion in federal revenue since 1982 -- a continuing trend. The shift in the state economy from manufacturing to

services has resulted in an annual loss of $300 million in sales and income tax. Given these and other structural changes in Michigan's economy it is imperative that the state explore other revenue options. MCCF will support the legislature and governor in efforts to identify and allocate new revenues.

REVIEW TAX EXPENDITURES

Tax expenditures should be reviewed annually (as direct expenditures currently are in the budget process). Tax expenditures should be reassessed for continuing appropriateness AND should be prioritized in terms of Michigan's overall ability to meet the human service needs of children and families.

Discussion: The growth in tax expenditures (up 58.1% between FY 1982 and FY 1988) continues to exceed the growth in direct state spending (up 44.6% in the same period). It is unconscionable to roll back inheritance taxes for the wealthy while cutting home heating energy assistance to the poor.

END CANNIBALIZATION OF CORE SERVICES

Discussion: To fund new program initiatives by cutting back on core services is a short-sighted budget strategy combining poor politics and poor public policy. The Coalition believes that core services must be protected and restored before adding new programming that is itself doomed to failure because of inadequate funding and because the client base it is expected to serve is increasingly in crisis without adequate provision for food, shelter, and basic medical care.

AN ORGANIZED, EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL

Effective delivery of supportive services to children and families depends on both interdepartmental cooperation and the alliance of state government with community-based groups and organizations.

Discussion: Effective service delivery requires adequate resources including a responsive organizational structure, appropriate staffing levels, and adequate funding for other resources such as training, materials and purchased services.

An effective service delivery system applies the resources to assist clients toward independence, encourages self-determination and draws volunteer community support when appropriate.

AGGRESSIVE ATTENTION TO THESE ISSUES IS INDISPENSABLE TO MEET THE HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS OF CITIZENS.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1. ADOLESCENT PARENTS — POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The AGENDA calls for a coordinated interdepartmental effort (Departments of Education, Public Health, Mental Health and Social Services) to define the needs of adolescent parents and plan strategy for implementing the needs of adolescent parents and plan strategy for implementing a series of programs to address those needs. These programs should encompass both prenatal and postnatal (i.e., parenting and child development) needs. Note this recommendation is applicable to all four departments, Education, Social Services, Public Health, and Mental Health.

For more information, contact: Paul Shaheen/Betsy Weihl (517) 482-5807.

2. HOMELESS YOUTH — POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Under the federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Youth Act, Michigan receives $151,662 for education for homeless children and youth. This money is to assure that homeless youth in Michigan have access to public education. *However, for the past two years, none of these funds have been used to provide direct educational services to the state's homeless children and youth, but rather in support of Department of Education administrative costs.* Since many of the youth who come to Michigan's runaway programs and independent living programs are denied access to public schools because they are homeless or temporarily homeless, the CHILDREN'S AGENDA is recommending that this money be spent to contract with these programs to provide in-house educational components for homeless youth.

For additional information, contact: Barbara Rachelson (517) 484-5262.

3. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$31,167,900	$33,887,700

To enhance the effectiveness of the Early Childhood Programs funded through the State Aid Act and Competitive Grant processes, we recommend the per child allocation be increased to $2,700. This funding increase is expected to address two types of services: 1.) to deal with identified at-risk factors, and 2.) to address specific program needs based on community needs assessments. For example, transportation, training and technical assistance, transition from preschool to kindergarten and interagency coordination of services.

Included in this recommendation for increased funding is also the provision to add 3,000 more children to the current level of 9,551. This will increase comprehensive services to 31 percent more of those children identified as at-risk of school failure in Michigan.

For more information, contact: Jean Garrett (517) 548-2100.

4. MICHIGAN MODEL FOR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$153,100 (GF/GP)	$153,100 (GF/GP)

The AGENDA recommends ongoing state General Fund support in the Department of Education for the Michigan Model. Also, the AGENDA recommends an appropriation of $1,888,000 in the School Aid Budget and full expenditure of new federal funds.

5. PARENTHOOD EDUCATION

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
--	$2,000,000

The Agenda recomends an increased funding priority for comprehensive Parenthood Education Programs for middle/junior high and high school students, this year's request for $2 million is an incremental increase toward the $7.5 million needed to adequately serve students in grades six through twelfth.

For more information, contact: Sharon Purdy (517) 398-8783.

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

1. COORDINATED CHILD CARE

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$183,000	$200,000

The Michigan 4C (Community Coordinated Child Care) Network provides the primary point of access for parents looking for child care in Michigan. Since 1984, there has been a 100% increase in the use of the 4C child care referral system and a 300% increase in the number of counties served. The Michigan 4C Association office exists to support the activities of the local offices, to manage state wide contracts for 4C services and to provide a locus for 4C advocacy on behalf of children and families.

For more information, contact Mark Sullivan: (517) 351-4171.

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

1. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$915,466,000 (GF/GP)	$1,067,987,200 (GF)

The CHILDREN'S AGENDA recommends continuation funding for the Department of Mental Health. At a minimum continuation funding should be maintained for programs which have demonstrated their effectiveness in strengthening communities and supporting families. One such program is the Family Support Subsidy Program.

2. FAMILY SUPPORT SUBSIDY

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$11,734,100 (GF/GP)	$12,065,300 (GF/GP)

Michigan's Family Support Subsidy program was enacted in 1983. By defraying some of the costs for a child with severe mental or physical impairments the subsidy program is designed to keep families together. The subsidy not only prevents out-of-home placement of children, but facilitates reunification of institutionalized children with their families. The number of children residing in centers for developmental disabilities was reduced by 207 percent (145 children) between 1983 and 1988.

It is further recommended that the subsidy amount be raised to the current SSI rate and be indexed to subsequent increases in the SSI rate as prescribed in the Family Support Subsidy Act (P.A. 249, Michigan Public Acts of 1983).

For more information contact, Joan Abbey: (313) 763-4152.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1. PARAPROFESSIONAL OUTREACH

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$900,000 (Increase)	$900,000 (Increase)

The AGENDA recommends increased funding of $900,000 to expand the paraprofessional outreach program. This program uses trained peers to recruit women into early prenatal care and to help them solve problems throughout the pregnancy and in the baby's first months of life.

3.COMPREHENSIVE ADOLESCENT HEALTH CENTERS

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
($ 0 Increase)	$300,000 (Increase)

The AGENDA urges new funding of $300,000 to expand Michigan's program of adolescent health centers. These centers provide primary and preventive health services to adolescents who do not otherwise receive care.

3. SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND INFANTS

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$1,000,000 (Increase)	$1,000,000 (Increase)

The Agenda recommends new funding of $1,000,000 each in the Department of Public Health (MDPH), the Office of Substance Abuse Services (OSAS), and the Office of Children and Youth Services (OCYS) to expand treatment services for chemically-dependent pregnant women. The AGENDA recommends that the three agencies continue their collaboration in reaching these women and children. (See DSS recommendation # 8).

4. FAMILY PLANNING AS A BASIC HEALTH SERVICE — POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The AGENDA strongly supports the declaration of family planning as a basic health service, as recommended by the Health Care Cost Management Team. Such a declaration would make access to family planning services a statutory right throughout Michigan. The AGENDA supports a process that will phase-in funding increases necessary to meet Michigan's family planning needs.

5. FUNDING FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES/LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$18,089,700	$38,089,700

The AGENDA endorses the report of the Established Committee which restructures financing of local health departments to ensure availability and accessibility of necessary and basic services to children and families in Michigan. Funding is being requested for services that are legislatively mandated.

6. WIC PROGRAM — POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The AGENDA recommends that the WIC M-Trax computerized system be fully and completely piloted before it is implemented state wide in order to ensure that food and services to a vulnerable population are not interrupted or diminished.

The AGENDA further recommends that the MDPH and local health departments work together to enable Michigan to receive the maximum possible benefit from the newly established Formula Rebate Program and to insure that no portion of WIC suffers due to the transition to a sole source formula contract.

7. CHILD MORTALITY REVIEW PANEL

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$0	$80,000 (new)

The AGENDA recommends an appropriation of $80,000 to create and support the work of a Child Mortality Review panel. The panel would examine all suspicious deaths of children in Michigan with an eye to identifying preventable causes of death and providing recommendations for new and/or strengthened policy initiatives.

8. PARENTING EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$0	$90,000 (new)

An important factor in reducing post-neonatal infant mortality is appropriate education about child development and effective parenting skills. The AGENDA recommends an appropriation of $90,000 to create a parenting information brochure and referral guide to be distributed by the MDPH to all new parents in Michigan.

9. BIRTH DEFECTS REGISTRY

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$0	$400,000 (new)

P.A. 236 of 1988, mandates the creation of a birth defects registry in Michigan. The data would be used, in part, to establish a comprehensive referral mechanism to the Crippled Children program. A computerized tracking system has been developed and pilot tested. The AGENDA recommends an appropriation of $400,000 to implement the registry state wide.

10. MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT OF CRIPPLED CHILDREN — POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Because of understated need, the Crippled Children medical care and treatment line item has in the past consistently required supplemental appropriations. The AGENDA strongly recommends that it be funded, in both FY 1990 and FY 1991, to meet true levels of need and urges that funding be continually adjusted to reflect expenditures needed to meet children's special health care needs. The AGENDA also supports efforts underway to improve administration, service delivery and other components of the Crippled Children program.

11. CRIPPLED CHILDREN PROVIDER APPROVAL TASK FORCE — POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The AGENDA endorses the work of the Crippled Children Provider Approval Task Force in its efforts to develop appropriate certification procedures for providers and assure the delivery of quality care to children with special health care needs. The Task Force has established standards to assure quality of care within four provider groups: hospitals, physicians, clinics and home health agencies.

12. RADON TESTING — POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The AGENDA recommends the development of a radon testing program for Michigan elementary and nursery schools, with priority on the testing of underground classrooms and play areas.

13. MAINTENANCE OF DSS HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTION FUNDING

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$484,900	$613,000 ($128,100 Increase)

The AGENDA recommends that funding for health and safety inspections (including child care centers), be increased by $128,100 in order to ensure that local health departments are reimbursed their full cost of conducting these inspections and to maintain the high level of quality and comprehensiveness of these important inspections. The AGENDA further recommends that the inspections be funded directly by DSS.

14. MICHIGAN ESSENTIAL HEALTH PROVIDER STRATEGY

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$800,000 (new)	$1,500,000 (new)

The AGENDA supports MDPH efforts to expand the base of providers willing to provide care for public health and social services clients, particularly for "high risk" services such as obstetrical care. The AGENDA recommends an appropriation of $1,500,000 to implement a strategy to recruit providers.

15. MICHIGAN MODEL FOR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$105,200 (decrease)	$105,200 (continuation funding)

The AGENDA continues its strong support of the Michigan Model and urges restoration of $105,200 to the MDPH portion of program funding. Full continuation funding is crucial to assure that evaluation as well as program needs are met.

For more information, contact: Paul Shaheen/Betsy Weihl (517) 482-5807 or Susan Garcia (517) 485-0660.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

1. HEALTHY START PROGRAM

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Policy Recommendation
$13,000,000	and $13,000,000 (new)

The AGENDA strongly supports implementation of the proposed Healthy Start program and urges the appropriation of $13,000,000 to enroll and serve the estimated 75,000 eligible children. Healthy Start would provide the full range of services available through Medicaid to all children up to age 10 under 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline in FY 1991, with the age range expanded in successive years until all children up to age 18 are covered. The AGENDA urges that the Medical Services Administration explore possible sources of federal funding to supplement state General Fund financing of the program. The AGENDA also urges that mechanisms to ensure adequate provider participation be explored and implemented.

The AGENDA also supports efforts to extend Medicaid coverage in Michigan to children up to the level allowed by federal law (currently age 8).

2. INFANT SUPPORT SERVICES

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$8,400,000 (new)	$8,400,000 (new)

Infant Support Services (ISS) would provide non-medical support services -- including nutrition services, case management, psychosocial counseling and other services based on assessment of each infant's needs -- to high risk infants through age 1. This is in addition to medical coverage available through Medicaid, as with Michigan's successful maternal support services program. The Sentinel Warning System, to assure that infants are not lost to follow-up is another component of ISS. The Infant Support Services is scheduled to be implemented May 1, 1990, and the AGENDA recommends an appropriation of $8,400,000 ($4,000,000 in General Fund) to fully fund the program in FY 1991.

The AGENDA also urges that DSS work with others to identify the gap in services available for children between ages one and four, and to begin to provide family-focused support services specifically for that age population.

3. INCREASED PROVIDER PARTICIPATION POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Currently, access for women and children to Medicaid services is hindered because of dwindling provider participation in Medicaid. Federal mandates now require Michigan to provide adequate reimbursement for obstetric and pediatric services to ensure adequate access. The AGENDA supports DSS action --

including utilization of the Resources Based Relative Value Scale methodology -- as it attempts to redirect and amplify reimbursement as well as its efforts to expedite bill paying procedures.

4. ACCESS TO DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The AGENDA supports Medicaid initiatives to improve dental access for eligible children. The August, 1988, *Michigan Medical Dental Task Force Report* identifies several specific actions which, if implemented, would increase access. The AGENDA urges the Legislature to call for an implementation plan of key provisions of this report.

5. EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Recent federal legislative changes which attempt to clarify EPSDT policy potentially jeopardize the quality standards of Michigan's program. While the AGENDA supports increased utilization of this child health screening program, it strongly opposes dismantling the quality assurance components limiting provider participation to those who are qualified. The AGENDA specifically opposes removal of Michigan's current provider certification process. The AGENDA recommends that a task force be convened by Medicaid and the Department of Public Health to review the federal changes, current utilization patterns, and ways to balance increased utilization with quality of care and cost concerns.

6. VENDOR HOUSING INSPECTION POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The AGENDA endorses a DSS policy whereby rental payments to property owners are withheld when tenants health and safety are jeopardized due to exposure to lead, fire and other safety hazards. DSS has contracted with five pilot agencies to develop "minimum livability standards" and a plan for implementation of those standards which assures that vendor housing payments are withheld until safety hazards are corrected.

For more information, contact: Paul Shaheen/Betsy Weihl (517) 482-5807 or Susan Garcia (517) 485-0660.

7. ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS WORKERS POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The ability to provide income support to eligible recipients is seriously compromised by continuing understaffing of Assistance Payments Workers. The result is weeks and at times, months of delays in beginning assistance payments to eligible clients. Inevitably, some eligible clients are unable to receive assistance simply because they are not able to navigate the application process with its many delays and mistakes. Typically, workers with an expected caseload size of 75 clients are juggling caseloads of 250 or more. The MDSS is unable to keep experienced workers in these positions due to job stress directly attributable to gross understaffing. The constant turnover of workers results in even greater error rates as inexperienced workers learn and re-learn the job.

8. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Office of Children and Youth Services (OCYS) Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$1,000,000 (new money)	$1,000,000 (new money)

Substance abuse is a major and growing factor in the treatment of child abuse and neglect and delinquency. The inability to impact substance abuse in the home is resulting in higher caseloads and more critical cases for child welfare professionals, and in greater numbers of children in need of foster care. In recent months, local DSS offices, primarily in large metropolitan areas, have indicated that the problem is escalating rapidly, particularly due to CRACK cocaine abuse. The MDSS indicates that between 40 percent and 70 percent of the substantiated CPS cases incorporate substance abuse problems.

9. PROTECTIVE SERVICES WORKERS COVERAGE

OCYS Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$25,500,000 (GF/GP)	$25,500,000 (GF/GP)

With the rapidly expanding number of reported and substantiate cases of child abuse and neglect, protective services staff are faced with increasingly difficult caseloads and increasingly larger caseloads. Additionally, the OCYS Child Protective Services (CPS) staffing is patently inadequate to meet the mandates of the Coleman Commission/Stabenaw legislation. Currently, the OCYS must increase its number of CPS workers and supervisors by no less than 250, in order to meet legislative mandates and to protect the at-risk children in Michigan.

10. ADOPTION SUBSIDY PROGRAM

OCYS Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$50,000 (GF/GP) (new money)	$50,000 (GF/GP) (new money)

Currently, there are two OCYS staff positions to provide needed services to a caseload of 6,200 clients, giving a caseload ration of 3, 100 cases per worker. Additionally, it is likely that caseload sizes will increase as Michigan enacts the Permanency Planning Legislation requiring regular hearings to ensure timely decisions about the ability of a family to reconstitute or the need to release children for adoption.

Caseloads levels of this size are unacceptable because they decrease the chances for successful adoptive placement of children when families are unable to access basic supportive services. The result can be needless disruption of adoptive placements, continuing the abuse/neglect cycle from which these

children were originally "rescued" and which adoptive placement was intended to alleviate.

The recommended addition of a staff person would bring the caseload level to approximately 2,000 cases per worker, allowing workers to better open and close cases in a timely manner, process medical bills, and respond to family inquiries regarding medical services and other available services and programs.

For more information, contact: Carolyn Jarvis (517) 485-0840 or Pat Sorenson (517) 487-5436

12. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$3,198,900	$3,483,900

The CHILDREN'S AGENDA is requesting an increase of $285,000 over the executive budget. This would allow for the funding of two additional shelters. It would also provide adequate staffing at the Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board level to carry out state wide leadership and to fulfill legislative mandates.

There are currently forty-two state funded domestic violence shelters in Michigan. Many shelters serve families from multiple counties, where women and their children often travel hundreds of miles to the nearest shelter. In the fiscal year 1989, more than 6,050 women and 9,100 children were housed in these shelters. Still 1,735 families were turned away for lack of space.

Although domestic violence shelters house women with or without children, over two thirds of those who come to the shelters are children. Over 70 percent of the children have been physically abused, and 100 percent are emotionally affected.

Shelters provide safety, advocacy, and a supportive environment for women and their children when they are forced to flee violence at home. Shelters also provide prevention education to women and their children both in the shelter setting and in the community. Women and children learn skills to prevent violence and to ensure it non-recurrence.

For more information, contact: Hedy Nuriel (313) 547-8888.

13. INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS

Current Funding Level	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$500,000	$2,250,000

Michigan runaway programs, among other agencies, have seen an increase in the numbers of youth who are truly homeless. These youth, for a variety of reasons, have no home to return to or come from such severely dysfunctional homes that they cannot return to them.

For the past year and a half, the state has funded six demonstration grants that provide shelter, skills training and counseling to these young people. These six programs, funded as demonstration grants, have helped hundreds of homeless youth find homes, gainful employment and learn the skills they need to be productive adults who do not depend on public assistance. In its 1989 report, *Where are They Tonight?* the United Community Services Task Force On The Homeless, recommends that state funding for these programs "be elevated to permanent status, as the need has been clearly demonstrated and that funds be increased to expand current services and to initiate new programs to meet that need."

The CHILDREN'S AGENDA is recommending that these programs be expanded from 6 to 15 in number, at an average cost per program of $150,000. This funding will significantly reduce the number of homeless youth who are currently unserved.

For more information, contact: Barbara Rachelson (517) 484-5262.

14. **JUVENILE JUSTICE** **POLICY RECOMMENDATION**

The Legislature is urged to give priority to funding delinquency prevention and treatment programs that have been proven to be effective. Two such programs have demonstrated their effectiveness when implemented and scientifically evaluated in Wayne County.

The AGENDA recommends both continuation funding and expansion of the family support and education juvenile diversion program. After a four-year pilot testing period, this diversion approach which focuses on the youth's family successfully demonstrated the ability to reduce recidivism rates for juveniles at a substantially lower cost than formal court processing. Currently, this model program is in operation in two sites in Detroit by the League of Catholic Women's "Family and Youth Resources Project." This project design was so successful it was published in the American Psychological Association's *14 Ounces of Prevention, a Casebook for Practioners*.

The AGENDA recommends funding of an "intensive probation" program developed and evaluated in the Wayne County Juvenile Court. This approach provided a mix of behavioral supervision and remedial services to juvenile delinquents in their homes. These youth would have otherwise been committed to the state's training schools. At less than one-third the cost of commitment, the intensive supervision approach retained about one-half of these cases in the community. After a five-year evaluation, it was concluded that this program with rigid intake criteria was a viable alternative for many delinquent youth.

15. REGIONAL DETENTION SERVICES

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$1,063,800	$1,085,032

The AGENDA recommends continuation funding of Regional Detention Services in the Office of Children and Youth Services. These services provide safe and appropriately secure placement for youth who have been apprehended by police. This approach is a national model that Michigan should be justly proud of.

For more information, contact: Rick Duranczyk (517) 482-4141 or William Lovett (517) 373-1944.

16. CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE FOR MICHIGAN OPPORTUNITY AND SKILLS TRAINING (MOST) PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS — POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The Family Support Act exempts women with children less than three years of age (one year of age at state option) from mandatory participation in the JOBS program. In recognition of the child care problems faced by AFDC recipients with very young children, including the possibility of inadequate or unreliable child care and the scarcity of infant care, the AGENDA recommends that Michigan implement the Family Support Act by exempting parents with children three years of age or under from mandatory participation in employment and training programs, and that any expansion of mandatory participation to those with children between the ages of one and three be contingent upon the availability of affordable, quality child care.

17. INCOME ASSISTANCE FOR POOR CHILDREN — POLICY RECOMMENDATION

A recently released study of child mortality in Michigan demonstrated that children living in poverty die almost 25 percent of all Michigan children (35 percent of the children under one year of age) resided in low-income families, yet these children accounted for 45 percent of all childhood deaths.

Roughly one in six of the state's children live in families that must rely on cash public assistance. Although AFDC caseloads have fallen some since the recession of the early 1980s, in November of 1989, over 633,000 individuals (including nearly 413,00 children) were forced to rely on AFDC for basic survival. An additional 26,000 children were living with families dependent on General Assistance (GA). The purchasing power of AFDC families is now 23 percent below the 1980 level. By FY 1989-90, AFDC payments represented only 56 percent of poverty, and the failure to adopt any grant increases in FY 1990-91 will cause further slippage to 54 percent of pverty. The AGENDA recommends that:

A) the DSS develop a plan to increase the AFDC and GA family Payment Standard over a five-year period to more closely reflect the actual cost of raising a child and supporting a family, using the federal poverty level and Michigan's own Standard of Need as guidelines; and

B) the State recognize inflation by adopting a 4.3 percent increase in AFDC and GA family payments ($6.00 per month per recipient).

For more information, contact: Pat Sorenson (517) 487-5436.

17. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT — POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The federal Family Support Act enacted in October 1988, gives states an extraordinary opportunity to shape a program responsive to the needs of AFDC families.

The Family Support Act recognizes that the provision of good child care services reduces barriers to employment enabling families to become self sufficient and no longer dependent on welfare. Federal matching money is available to states to implement the child care provisions of this law at a 54 percent federal, 46 percent state matching rate.

States are required to evaluate the child care needs of families, inform families of their rights, and link them with approved child care providers.

To obtain federal funds under the Family Support Act Child Care Provisions, Michigan will have to provide state matching funds. Unless additional money is included in the state budget, the promise of expanded child care for AFDC families and the potential for successful transition from welfare to work will be an empty one and Michigan will not benefit from this opportunity for reform.

In order to implement the Child Care Provisions of the Family Support Act, the CHILDREN'S AGENDA recommends the following:

1) Guarantee Child Care Services as Required Through Staffing Restoration

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
N/A	$6,363,900 ($4,613,200 GF/GP) (new money)

Currently, there are no child care services workers, as such, within the Michigan Department of Social Services although some counties assign staff from other service areas to child care. The child care services staff was reduced in 1981 by 150 and these positions have never been replaced. Adequate staff is needed to guarantee child care services for eligible families. The CHILDREN'S AGENDA supports the request by the Department of Social Services for a total of 254 FTEs including family services workers and clerical staff to meet the federal requirements. Federal matching money is available to pay for staff under the Family Support Act.

2) Meet Required Increase in Reimbursement Rates

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
N/A	$3,100,000 (estimate only, increased funding)

The state must increase the amount that can be paid for child care through the child care disregard or through mechanisms such as vouchers or contracts. States must pay the actual cost of care at least up to $175/month per child or $200/month per infant or toddler for full time care. The state may choose to pay a higher amount provided that the amount does not exceed the 75th percentile of market rate costs and still receive federal matching money. The CHILDREN'S AGENDA recommends that the state use this requirement to start to base the reimbursement rates on the actual cost of care, as required, rather than to continue the current practice of paying hourly rates which are not related to and are far below actual costs. A market rate survey was conducted for the Michigan Department of Social Services by the Michigan 4C Association.

3) Maximize Federal Match

The CHILDREN'S AGENDA also recommends that the state option of using 27.55 percent of gross income as a cap for child care payments to working parents be removed. The 27.55 percent option reduces the potential maximum ($175 or $200) available to the state.

4) Required Transitional Child Care

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$23,940,000	$25,914,400 ($4,542,700 Increase)

The Family Support Act requires that child care reimbursements be continued on a sliding fee basis for up to one year after the family leaves public assistance for employment. The most effective way to meet this reimbursement is to have eligible families receive child care reimbursements under the existing Title XX, Social Services Block Grant Child Care Services Program for low income working families administered by the Office of Children and Youth Services. The CHILDREN'S AGENDA recommends that the Department of Social Services be required to inform all families leaving the AFDC child care program that they are potentially eligible for the transitional child care or the Title XX child care program.

Increased funding would be required to reach more eligible families and to increase the current reimbursement rates under the Title XX program to cover the cost of inflation. Reimbursement rates for child care providers increased only 8 percent during the period 1980 to 1989 while inflation, as measured by the consumer price indices, increased by 44 percent. For example, the state pays up to a maximum of $6.80 per day per child for care of a child in a family day care home when the market rate for infant care is approximately $20 a day. Low reimbursement rates reduce availability of child care for families eligible for full or partial payment. The CHILDREN'S AGENDA supports the increase requested by OCYS.

5) Required Quality Controls

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$3,100,000	$4,100,000 ($1,000,000 Increase)

As the need for regulated child care facilities increases the ability of the Child Day Care Licensing Division within MDSS to monitor and license facilities is greatly reduced. It will be essential to increase the licensing staff by at least 20 FTEs to meet the new demand for regulated child care resources. Some of the funding for the needed positions could be generated by the establishment of a fee for licensing services.

6) Required Information and Referral Services, Outreach Services and the Coordination of Services

Executive Recommendation	Children's Agenda Recommendation
$744,000	$1,440,000 ($650,000 increase)

The requirements for information and referral services are currently being met in some areas of the state by the Michigan 4C (Community Coordinated Child Care) network. The CHILDREN'S AGENDA recommends an increase in funding to extend services state wide and to meet the increased demand for services required by the Family Support Act. The Michigan 4C network has the capacity to contract with MDSS for the following services: counsel families in transition from the Title IV-A child care program for AFDC recipients to the Title XX/Social Services Block Grant Child Care Services program for low income working parents; find and select good child care; and coordinate various available child care/early childhood education services to best meet family needs.

For more information, contact: Margaret Crawley (517) 351-4171.